

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12907

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN RESERVATIONS AT COLOMBO ON PUERTO RICO AND
KOREA

REF: STATE 214908

1. DURING BRIEFING ON THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE
AT HIS INITIATIVE, FOREIGN MINISTER MEHTA INFORMED
THE DCM THAT INDIA HAD FILED WRITTEN RESERVATIONS
ON NON-ALIGNED POSITION REGARDING PUERTO RICO AND
THE RESOLUTION ON KOREA. THESE RESERVATIONS, HE
SAID, WERE GENERAL AND PERTAINED TO THE ENTIRE
TEXT ON THE SUBJECT.

2. REGARDING PUERTO RICO, THE DCM CONVEYED
OUR APPRECIATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTTEL AND
ASKED IF INDIA COULD CONVEY ITS UNDERSTANDING OF
PUERTO RICO AS AN INTERNAL MATTER TO OTHER MEMBERS OF
THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AND SUPPORT A MOVEMENT TO
ADJORN DISCUSSION WITHOUT A VOTE ON RESOLUTION.
THE DCM EXPLAINED THAT PUERTO RICO WOULD COME UP BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE OF 24 TOMORROW, SEPTEMBER 2 AND AGAIN
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ON THE THIRD. WHEN WE HAD LAST TALKED TO THE

INDIAN DELEGATION IN NEW YORK ON AUGUST 25 IT HAD HAD NHIINSTRUCTIONS AND WAS PLANNING TO GO ALONG WITH MAJORITY. PERHAPS, THE DCM SAID, AMBASSADOR JAIPAL HAD RETURNED TO NEW YORK AND HAD TAKEN INSTRUCTIONS WITH HIM. NO, SAID MEHTA, HE WAS STILL IN DELHI. THE DCM CONCLUDED THEREFORE THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT INSTRUCTIONS BE SENT. MEHTA INTERRUPTED THE CONVERSATION TO NOTE THIS DOWN. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT "THE IMPRESSION WAS" THAT THE CUBANS MAY NOT PRESS THIS ISSUE SO HARD THIS YEAR. HE GAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR THIS ESTIMATE BUT IT WAS CLEARLY BASED UPON THE INDIAN EXPERIENCE IN COLOMBO.

3. THE DCM ALSO REMARKED ON THE XBNSTRUCTIVE AND BALANCED INDIAN APPROACH REGARDING KOREA, NOTING THAT THERE UNDOUBTEDLY WERE STEPS THE INDIANS MIGHT TAKE IN NEW YORK TO HELP AVOID A CONFRONTATION ON THIS ISSUE. AS THE INDIANS KNEW, THE SITUATION IN KOREA WAS DELICATE AND INDIA, AS THE US, HAD AN INTEREST IN CONTROLLING THIS ISSUE. MEHTA NODDED AND NOTED DOWN OUR REQUEST BUT MADE NO COMMENT.

4. THIS CONVERSATION WAS A SEQUEL TO THE LAST DISCUSSION BETWEEN MEHTA AND THE DCM AT WHICH THE DCM HAD REMARKED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO INDO-US RELATIONS IF THE GOI COULD STAND UP AND BE COUNTED ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA. AT THAT TIME MEHTA HAD BEEN NON-COMMITAL ON WHAT THE GOI WOULD DO AT COLOMBO. ONCE AGAIN, MEHTA HAS BEEN NON-COMMITTAL, THIS TIME ABOUT HELP IN NEW YORK, BUT IN LIGHT OF THE COLOMBO EXPERIENCE WE ARE SOMEWHAT MORE HOPEFUL FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE INDIAN APPROACH AT LEAST ON PUERTO RICO. SAXBE

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